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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/870,010 | 05/29/2001 | Tetsuji Yamaguchi | 83300.0003 | 8423 |

26021 7590 11/26/2007

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.
1999 AVENUE OF THE STARS
SUITE 1400
LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| GARCIA, GABRIEL I | |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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| 2625 | |

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| 11/26/2007 | PAPER |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 09/870,010 | YAMAGUCHI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Gabriel I. Garcia | 2625 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *07 September 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-4* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *1 and 3* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *2 and 4* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hull et al (US 5,978,477).

Regarding claim 4: Hull teaches a system (fig. 1) of managing image data (manage/handle, column 8, lines 30-40) in a network (column 1, lines 38-40), comprising: an image input device (302A, 302B, fig. 3, clearly items 106 or 110 can also be used as input devices); an image forming device (306, 310, 304, fig. 3, also items 106 or 110 can be used as image forming device) including storage means (312, 310, fig. 3) for storing image data inputted by the image input device, **and connecting directly to the image input device at (reads on fig. 1, which allows the input and output devices to connect using the network (100)** at least one of the image input device and the image forming device being connected to the network (Ethernet, fig. 3); and a client computer (102, fig. 1), connected to the network, receives retrieval, column 8, lines 14-40, note) the image date transmitted by the image forming device, for managing (manage/handle, column 8, lines 30-40) the image data stored in the

storage means via the network; wherein the image forming device further includes a converter (software 900, column 7, lines 40-60, column 4, lines 35-41) and a network interface (321, fig. 3)); the storage means comprises a binary data storage section (312, fig. 3) for storing the image data as binary data and a text data storage section (310, fig. 3)for storing text data converted from the binary data by the converter (column 7, lines 45-67); and the network interface managing the text data (handle, transmit), and transmit the text data stored in the text data storage section to the client computer (browse HTML document, column 8, lines 20-25).

Note: Column 3, lines 1-10, Hull teaches to browse the archive of the workstation 108 using client 102. Column 4, lines 35-43, teaches the document could be archived in the copier and if that is the case, the copier has all the function of the workstation 108. Therefore, client 102 can browse the archive of the copier if the document is archived in the copier, and it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to browse and handle/mange the text data archived in the copier using client 102 after reading Hull's invention as a whole.

3. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hull et al (US 5,978,477) in view of Davis et al (US 6,549,638).

Regarding claim 2: Hull teaches a system (fig. 1) of managing image data (manage/handle, column 8, lines 30-40)in a network (column 1, lines 38-40), comprising: an image input device (302A, 302B, fig. 3, also items 106 or 110 can be used as image forming device ); an image forming device (306, 310-304, fig. 3, also

items 106 or 110 can be used as image forming device) including storage means (312, 310, fig. 3) for storing image data inputted by the image input device, **and connecting directly to the image input device at (reads on fig. 1, which allows the input and output devices to connect using the network (100)**, at least one of the image input device and the image forming device being connected to the network (Ethernet, fig. 3); and a client computer (102, fig. 1), connected to the network, receives (retrieval, column 8, lines 14-40, note)the image date transmitted by the image forming device, for managing (manage/handle, column 8, lines 30-40) the image data stored in the storage means via the network; wherein the image forming device further includes a converter (software 900, column 7, lines 40-60, column 4, lines 35-41) and a network interface (321, fig. 3)); the storage means comprises a binary data storage section (312, fig. 3)for storing the image data as binary data and a text data storage section (310, fig. 3) for storing text data converted from the binary data by the converter (column 7, lines 45-67); and the network interface managing the text data (handle, transmit), and transmit the text data stored in the text data storage section to the client computer (browse HTML document, column 8, lines 20-25).

Note: Column 3, lines 1-10, Hull teaches to browse the archive of the workstation 108 using client 102. Column 4, lines 35-43, teaches the document could be archived in the copier and if that is the case, the copier has all the function of the workstation 108. Therefore, client 102 can browse the archive of the copier if the document is archived in the copier, and it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to browse and handle/mange the text data archived in the copier using client 102 after

reading Hull's invention as a whole.

Hull does not teach whether the network interface is implemented in software or hardware; therefore, a person with ordinary skill in the art must rely on other teaching in order to decide on whether to use a network interface that is implemented in harware alone or a combination of hardware and software.

Davis, in the area of network interface, teaches network interface continue their evolution from dedicated hardware to software-based implementations, their data processing capabilities increase commensurately. Thus, for example, software implemented network interface can monitor and analysis the data passing there-through.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Hull to use a software implemented network interface to monitor and analysis the data passing there-through as suggested by Davis; dedicated hardware may evolve into obsolete and hard to find replacement part or a part to implement Hull's invention.

## ***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 9/7/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With regard to Applicant's argument that Hull and David do not disclose or suggest

"an image forming device connecting directly to the image input device. Examiner disagrees with Applicant's conclusion. Examiner's asserts that Hull teaches an image forming device connecting directly to the image input device (reads on fig. 1, which depicts a copier and facsimile which depicts a copier as an input device and the facsimile as an output device, clearly both devices can be used as input device or output devices,

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

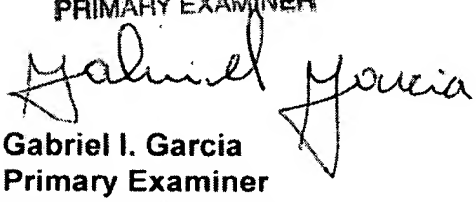
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gabriel I. Garcia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7434. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. The fax phone number for this group is (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER



**Gabriel I. Garcia**
**Primary Examiner**
**November 21, 2007**